



LAW IN ACTION

UNDUE INFLUENCE

The law does what it can to see that you know what you are doing, and to do what you wish—for example in making contracts and wills.

When a court can get the facts the law protects you from mistakes, trickery, undue influence, and coercion.

But go ahead and sign a contract without reading it and without knowing what it means, and you make it hard for anybody, including the courts, to protect you.

FRAUD

But take storekeeper Doe. He did read his contract but left the room to wait on a customer. While away, Rogue Roe, the other contractor, leaned over and wrote in that Doe "hereby discharges all claims now and hereafter" against Roe.

Well, without re-reading Doe came back and signed the contract. Finding out

about Roe's trickery, he denounced the contract. What's more, the court backed him.

If you sign a will or contract, for instance, under threat of unlawful harm (blackmail or a beating or kidnaping) it does not express your free will and a court may void it.

You often have to use circumstantial evidence to prove "undue influence" in will cases.

UNDUE INFLUENCE

For with the testator dead, his will is the chief evidence of his true wishes. So to show it is not, you might have to show several facts in combination:

Those who profited by the will had a good chance to influence the will-maker unduly; his state of mind or health was such as to permit someone who stood to gain to bend his will unduly.

Thus in one case the judge pointed out that several facts pointed to undue influence: The will was "unnatural" in benefiting strangers and denying children; it differed from the testator's wishes expressed before and after he signed the will; his health and mental state gave the chief beneficiaries a good chance to control his will-making and to undermine his wishes.

Note: California lawyers offer this column for you to know about our laws.

John McMillan Named Navy Petty Officer

Selected at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, as apprentice petty officer third class was John D. McMillan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McMillan, 1924 Hinsdale Ave.

The apprentice petty officers, who graduated Nov. 10, are chosen from the ranks of the seaman recruits to assist the company commanders. The selection is made on the aptitude and leadership qualities of each individual.

POWER RESOURCE

Tasmania, an island off the south coast of Australia, is said to have more potential water-power than all the rest of Australia combined.

Watchman Cited For Saving Five As Home Blazes

Fast action by J. C. Kaufman, employe of the Southern California Gas Co. in its southwest division, who was serving on night-watch over the Portuguese Bend slippage area, earned credit for assisting in saving five lives from a recent early morning fire.

Kaufman, who was officially congratulated this week by Carl Shupp, division manager for the gas company, was the first to discover the fire while making his patrol at about 1 a.m. He sighted flames in an attached garage on Cherry Hill Dr. and rushed to arouse occupants of the house.

Routed Neighbors

The next few minutes he spent knocking on the rear door and shouting with his full tenor voice. He soon routed but still could get no response from the afflicted home. And the roaring flames came ever closer.

In desperation, Kaufman kicked and pounded on the door. And his reward came with a light in the kitchen and a frightened face in the window. It was Mrs. Adele Kulow, an elderly mother of a neighbor woman, baby-sitting for three young boys and a baby.

Children Saved

Neighbors rushed into the house and carried the children to safety, while Kaufman devoted his energies to cutting off service at the curb valve, fighting the fire and getting a car out of the driveway. Someone in the meantime had called the fire department and the first engine arrived moments later. Cause of the fire was not immediately established.

Home owner D. F. Maier and his wife were happy to learn upon their return to Southern California from the east that the efforts of Kaufman, and other helpful neighbors, kept their family and home intact.

Truck Mirrors Taken

Thieves removed two rear-view mirrors worth \$26 from his pickup truck while it was parked by his home, Jay Satcher of 18509 Crenshaw Blvd. informed police Monday.

SALT CONTENT

Ocean water is saltiest near the surface and less so at greater depths.



WORKER PRAISED . . . Lifesaving action of Southern California Gas Co. employe J. C. Kaufman (right) during recent fire in the Portuguese Bend slippage area receives official recognition from Carl W. Shupp, Southwest Division manager for the company, and N. L. Boden, district supervisor.

Barber Shop Singers Meet On Thursdays

The former Centinela Valley chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, now of the South Bay, held its first meeting in the Music Room at Mira Costa High School last Thursday evening.

All that is required to join the group is the ability to carry a tune to the Music Room of the Mira Costa High School located on Gould Lane (westward extension of 1774th St. and Redondo Beach Blvd.

east of Pacific Coast Hwy.) any Thursday night at 8. Members of the Huntington Park chapter were on hand to add to the harmony. After coffee and doughnuts had been served members of both chap-

ters selected men from each group to form five quartets which, together with the chorus, provided a lot of barbershop harmony. The motto of the SPEBSQSA is "Keep America Singing."

Gift List

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Symphony to Give 'Hansel, Gretel' Show

Tickets now are available for the Christmas pantomime based on the story and music of "Hansel and Gretel," to be given by the South Bay Civic Symphony at Redondo High School Auditorium on Dec. 28 and 29.

The cast includes Marilyn Niska, soprano; Lyle Heck, baritone; Helen Carnsey, Becca Deter, and Kenneth Halle, dramatists; Jan Darian, Mary Tiffany, Julie Watson, Stephen Stackhouse, Nancy Hesketh, solo dancers; a chorus of 42; 157 ballet dancers; and a 60-piece symphony orchestra directed by Elyse Aehle.

The show is sponsored by the South Bay Symphony Orchestra Assn., headed by Mrs. Lilas Stefan, chairman.

General admission tickets will be free and reserved seats will be 90 cents. Tickets may be obtained from Mrs. A. M. Headley, 206 Ave. H., Redondo Beach, by writing and enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Orchestra members also have them.

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